CLAIMS

1. A method comprising:

(a) providing a presence device associated with a
communication device, the presence device operable in a
first mode and a second mode;

(b) if the presence device is operating in the first
mode, biometrically authenticating a user using the
presence device and receiving a presence confirmation
input from the communication device; and

(c) if the presence device is operating in the
second mode, receiving a user-entered log-in input from
the communication device and authenticating the user
entered login input.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the communication
device comprises a telephone, and wherein said
biometrically authenticating comprises authenticating a
voice of the user during a call using the telephone.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the call is made
between the user and a party, and wherein said
authenticating the voice of the user is independent of
the party.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the user is a
calling party of the call.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein the user is a
called party of the call.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the communication device comprises a keyboard, and wherein said biometrically authenticating comprises authenticating a fingerprint of the user as the user types using the keyboard.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said authenticating a fingerprint of the user is independent of a software application for which the user types using the keyboard.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the presence device is embedded with the communication device.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the presence device is removably interfaced with the communication device.

10. A system comprising:
a communication device;
a presence device associated with the communication device, the presence device operable in a first mode and a second mode; and
a central presence database responsive to the communication device to indicate that the communication device is active for the user in response to (a) biometrically authenticating a user using the presence device and receiving a presence confirmation input from the communication device if the presence device is operating in the first mode, and (b) receiving a user-entered log-in input from the communication device and authenticating the login input if the presence device is

operating in the second mode.

11. The system of claim 10 wherein the communication device comprises a telephone, and wherein said biometrically authenticating comprises authenticating a voice of the user during a call using the telephone.

12. The system of claim 11 wherein the call is made between the user and a party, and wherein said authenticating the voice of the user is independent of the party.

13. The system of claim 12 wherein the user is a calling party of the call.

14. The system of claim 12 wherein the user is a called party of the call.

15. The system of claim 10 wherein the communication device comprises a keyboard, and wherein said biometrically authenticating comprises authenticating a fingerprint of the user as the user types using the keyboard.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein said authenticating a fingerprint of the user is independent of a software application for which the user types using the keyboard.

17. The system of claim 10 wherein the presence device is embedded with the communication device.

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18. The system of claim 10 wherein the presence device is removably interfaced with the communication device.